

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JRRATIGAN:CSR
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
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-----087712 271648Z /44

P R 271613Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 205634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

- SIGNING OF US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREE-
MENT

REF: STATE 197976, DTG 192050Z AUG 77 (NOTAL)

1. GREEK MFA LEGAL ADVISOR MACHERITSAS MET WITH COUNSELOR
NIMETZ WED AUG 24, FOLLOWING LUNCHEON AND WORK SESSION
(REPORTED SEPTTEL) PREVIOUS DAY WITH EUR/SE DIRECTOR LEDSKY.
MEETINGS CENTERED ON FUTURE HANDLING IN BOTH COUNTRIES OF
US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA).

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2. MACHERITSAS IMPLIED THAT GREECE WAS PREPARED FOR AN
EARLY SIGNING OF THE DCA--PERHAPS EVEN IN SEPTEMBER.
PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENT TO THE GREEK PARLIAMENT WOULD
OCCUR UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IN OCTOBER AND MACHERITSAS
INDICATED THAT THE REQUIRED TWO THIRD'S VOTE OF APPROVAL
BY THAT BODY WAS CERTAIN.

3. MACHERITSAS OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DID NOT WANT TO GET OUT AHEAD OF THE US AND WANTED GREEK PARLIAMENTARY AND US CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE DCA TO OCCUR ROUGHLY AT THE SAME TIME. SINCE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT UNDER APPLICABLE GREEK LAW COULD NOT KEEP ITS

PARLIAMENT FROM OBTAINING, CONSIDERING, AND VOTING ON THE DCA ONCE IT WAS SIGNED, ATHENS DID NOT WISH TO AGREE TO A SIGNING UNTIL IT KNEW WHEN THE US ADMINISTRATION PLANNED TO PUT THE DCA BEFORE THE US CONGRESS. IF IT DECIDED TO DO SO SOON, THEN AN EARLY SIGNING WOULD BE ARRANGED. IF THE US ADMINISTRATION PREFERRED TO WAIT, THEN A DELAY IN THE SIGNING WOULD BE NECESSARY.

4. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD URGE CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE GREEK DCA. THIS DEPENDED ON MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING THE SCHEDULE OF CONGRESS AND THE PRECEDENTS OF OTHER ISSUES BEFORE OUR LEGISLATIVE BODIES. THE US WAS ANXIOUS TO SIGN THE GREEK DCA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACTORS MACHERITSAS HAD MENTIONED, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AGREED THAT THE TIMING OF THE SIGNING AND CONGRESSIONAL HANDLING OF THE DCA WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER, PERHAPS AS PART OF THE PREPARATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH
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FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AT THE UN IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

5. MACHERITSAS AGREED THAT A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER IN MID-SEPTEMBER WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIREABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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